AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing or ameliorating pain from a surgically closed wound in a subject comprising applying a pharmaceutically acceptable topical drug formulation comprising a therapeutically effective dose of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof on or adjacent to an exterior surface of the surgically closed wound.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound resulted from a surgical procedure.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the surgical procedure is selected from the group consisting of laparoscopy, herniaplasty, breast biopsy, and excision of subcutaneous tumors.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the surgical procedure is selected from the group consisting of herniaplasty and laparoscopy.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, prilocaine, mepivacaine, procaine, chloroprocaine, ropivacaine, dibucaine, etidocaine, and benzocaine or a mixture thereof.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic is lidocaine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable topical drug formulation contains at least two local anesthetics.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the local anesthetics are lidocaine and prilocaine.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the local anesthetics are lidocaine and tetracaine.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable topical drug formulation does not comprise a penetration enhancer.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable topical drug formulation further comprises an agent effective to prolong the duration of a local anesthetic effect.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable topical drug formulation is covered with a dressing after the application step.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable topical drug formulation is contained in a patch.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patch is a type selected from the group consisting of monolithic drug-in-adhesive, multi-laminate drug-in-adhesive, matrix, and reservoir.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patch is a drug-in-adhesive type patch.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patch is a monolithic drug-in-adhesive type patch.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the patch comprises a backing and an adhesive containing the anesthetic.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patch is a matrix type patch.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the patch comprises an anesthetic containing matrix and an adhesive backing film overlay.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the anesthetic comprises about 10 percent to about 30 percent of a weight of the patch.

21. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the anesthetic comprises about 15 percent to about 25 percent of a weight of the patch.

22. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the anesthetic comprises about 18 percent to about 22 percent of a weight of the patch.

23. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patch is applied about every 18 hours to about every 48 hours after a surgical procedure.

24. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patch is applied daily after a surgical procedure.

25. (Original) A patch comprising a local anesthetic in an amount therapeutically effective to prevent or ameliorate pain from a surgically closed wound in a mammal suffering from the pain packaged in association with instructions, the instructions comprising: applying the patch to the surgically closed wound.